

DATE 3/3/11
HB 71

Testimony in Support of HB71

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT PROVIDING THAT CERTAIN ILLEGAL ALIENS ARE NOT ENTITLED TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION WAGE-LOSS AND MEDICAL BENEFITS FOR A WORK-RELATED INJURY OR DISEASE; AND AMENDING SECTION 39-71-118, MCA."

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Roger Nummerdor. I live in the Helena Valley and stand before you in support of HB 71. This bill is being used to add strength to an existing bill and in doing so; I feel it will add jobs for Montanans.

The new Section 1. Payment of benefits to aliens; requires that no person here in the State of Montana, illegally, will be afforded wage-loss or medical benefits for a work related injury or disease. If you remove incentives like these from illegal aliens, it will slow down their taking jobs from Montana residents and legal immigrants.

The State of Montana has the highest workers' compensation rates in the entire nation with an average of \$3.33 of every \$100 of payroll going to pay premiums. Montana State Fund indicated that it uncovered only eight work comp claims by illegal aliens in 2010. The question I have is how are these claims being managed? I know when I filed a claim, I had a case manager and everything done, had to be approved beforehand. Are these cases being handled like all other cases? Are these injured workers still in state and receiving benefits? I feel these questions should be answered as cases like this could be one of the reasons why we have the highest work comp. rates in the nation.

I feel HB71 is a step towards giving more Montana jobs to Montanans and possibly lowering the cost of workers compensation. I urge you to pass HB71.